Discrepancies in AISSE/AISSCE

196. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports appearing in the print media in Assam with regard to discrepancies in the AISSE and AISSCE board exam results announced for 2006-07; and

(b) if so. the steps taken by Government to save the future of the students affected by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A report in the Guwahati edition of a national newspaper dated 26.5.2007 mentioned that in the All India Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (class 12) conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education, the results in the north-east region was not very encouraging vis-a-vis the all India performance.

(b) CBSE has undertaken following measures for improvement of performance:-

(i) Sample Question papers have been published.

(ii) School based internal evaluations have been strengthened in Social Sciences and Mathematics,

(iii) Question papers have been re-strctured in various subjects, and

(iv) Fifteen minutes of additional time has given to students to read the question paper before starting to write answer in the examination hall.

Further, to improve the situation, particularly for students of NER, the Board has initiated action for conducting teachers' empowerment programme in various subjects.

MT in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa

197. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an UT and upgrade two other technical institutes to UT level in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Orissa Government has written to the Prime Minister for establishment of a Greenfield UT and for upgradation of the extension campus of MT Kharagpur at Bhubaneswar; and

(d) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to set up an Indian Institute of Technology (UT) in Andhra Pradesh. Also, on the recommendation of Prof. S.K. Joshi Committee, the Government has released grants for upgradation of Andhra University College of Engineering, Visakhapatnam and

University College of Engineering combined with the University College of Technology, both belonging to Osmania University, Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister under the chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, the Government have decided to establish three new UTs, one each in Bihar in the East, Rajasthan in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South during the 11th Plan period. There is no proposal at present to establish a Greenfield UT in Orissa. The Government has not approved upgradation of the extension campus of UT Kharagpur at Bhubaneswar.

Expansion of UTs and IIIMs

198. SHRIMATI SYEDA AN WARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that institutes like UTs and IIMs have not expanded even in three-four decades after they were established, whereas institutions like Harvard and Standford are continuously expanding;

(b) if so, the manner in which the reservation of OBCs would be effected there without curtailing the number of seats for general categories; and

(c) whether they would be given special grants for proposed expansion or they have to generate funds from their own resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Indian Institutes of Technology (UTs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have, over a period of time, expanded in all spheres of activities *viz.* number of courses, number of departments/ centres, students' strength in under-graduate/post-graduate levels, laboratiories and building infrastructure, etc. and acquired world class status.

(b) and (c) The issue regarding OBC reservation in the central institutes of higher learning is presently pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and, therefore, sub-judice.

Increase in Universities

199. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Knowledge Commission has recommended that the country needs to increase the number of universities from 350 to 1,500 by 2015, while currently, only seven per cent of the 19-24 year old population enters higher education;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to raise the number from seven per cent to 15.percent and by when this target would be achieved;

(c) whether Government have fixed any criteria to find out that quality education is imparted at higher level;